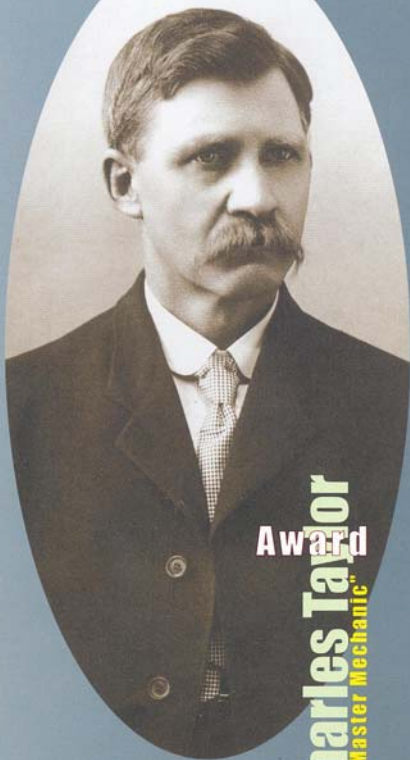


Charles E. Taylor A.M.T

"The FIRST"



Award

Charles Taylor
"Master Mechanic"

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Charles Taylor

"Master Mechanic"

AWARD

This award was initiated by the Federal Aviation Administration in honor of the first Aviation Mechanic, **CHARLES EDWARD TAYLOR**.

In honoring Mr. Taylor, we are recognizing and honoring those mechanics who have worked in aviation maintenance for 50 or more years. They are the mechanics who have brought the aviation industry forward into the 21st Century.

Charles Taylor has been called the "Unsung Hero of Aviation". He is the absolutely indispensable person without whom the Wright Brothers could not have made the first flight in 1903. Charles Taylor is the first aviation mechanic in powered flight, the man who built and maintained those first aircraft engines.

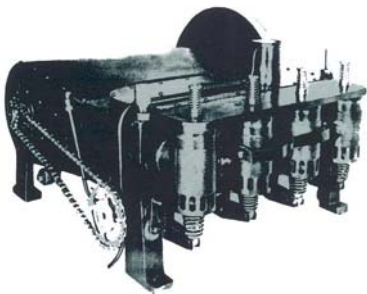
During six weeks, in 1902, Mr. Taylor built this first engine for the Wright flyer using basically only a lathe and drill press. He machined the block in his own shop and made the crankshaft from a slab of high-carbon tool steel, working it down to size on a lathe. The finished engine was a simplified

version of a contemporary automobile engine with four water-cooled, horizontal cylinders. The fuel was injected directly into the cylinders by gravity from a tank fastened to a strut near the upper wing. There were no spark plugs and the spark was created by opening and closing two contact points in each cylinder. The first successful aircraft engine built by Mr. Taylor was a four-cylinder piston engine which weighed 179 pounds, producing 12 HP at 1,000 RPM's.

AWARD ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Applicant must have worked in the aviation maintenance industry for a minimum of 50 years.
- Of those 50 years, a minimum of 30 years experience as a FAA certified mechanic with least one rating, or 30 years experience as a certified repairman.

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- A maximum of 20 years aviation maintenance experience acquired in the U.S. military, aviation maintenance or manufacturing industry is acceptable.
- At no time has the applicant's FAA certificate been revoked by the FAA.
- Eligible individuals may apply for the award at the local FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO), or others may request the award on behalf of the eligible individual.
- The award may be presented posthumously to an individual for up to 3 years after his or her death.
- The application takes the form of a notarized letter that provides a resume of the individual's past employment history, the kinds of certificates held, and their original date of issuance. Along with the letter of application, three letters from FAA certificated mechanics or repairmen, recommending that individual for the award are required.
- Additional background information is found in advisory circular (AC) 65.26 Charles Taylor "Master Mechanic" Award.

